

Commonwealth of Massachusetts



Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2001

Martin J. Benison, CGFM
State Comptroller

Prepared by The Financial Reporting and Analysis Bureau

*This document and related information are available via the Office of the Comptroller's home page:
www.state.ma.us/osc/osc.htm*

“Hail to the Sunrise”

Charlemont, Massachusetts

Sculpture by Joseph P. Polia, 1932

Located on the famous Mohawk Trail, facing East overlooking the Deerfield river at the site of the old Indian fordway, Hail to the Sunrise depicts a Mohawk Indian beckoning with uplifted arms in supplication to the Great Spirit the new-born day of hope and peace for America.

It is a monument to the Five Indian Nations of the Mohawk Trail. The inscription on the arrowhead tablet at the statue's base reads: “Hail to the Sunrise - In Memory of the Mohawk Indian.” This eight foot statue is a 900 pound bronze casting erected on a nine-ton boulder. The memorial includes a pool with 100 inscribed stones from various tribes and councils from throughout the United States.

After years of fundraising, it was erected by the Improved Order of the Red Men and their women's auxiliary, the Allied Councils of Pocahontas of the Old Deerfield conference.

Impressive unveiling ceremonies were held on October 1, 1932, with the surrounding hills ablaze with foliage of highly-painted Indian colors. Joe Mitchell Chapple in his address at the unveiling said; “Hail to the Sunrise symbolizes the hopefulness of humanity through the ages. This is an occasion when we commemorate the Red Man – not only the organization that has kept alive the great fundamental traditions of Freedom, Friendship, and Charity, but the race of Red Men from whom we have taken and inherited the boundless territory of this great republic.”

The Improved Order of Red Men and Degree of Pocahontas were consolidated in 1834 from the St. Tamina Society, the Sons of Liberty and the Society of Red Men. Washington, Hancock and Adams were early promoters and organizers of this Order.

The Improved Order is the United States oldest benevolent society of distinctively American origin. Congress granted the Order Charter “To Inspire Fraternity and Greater Love of the Principles of American Liberty.”

Photography courtesy of Kindra Clineff, Massachusetts Office of Tourism and Travel

Research courtesy of Gerald G. Moothart, Past Great Inchochee, Great Council United States and the History of the Improved Order of the Red Men and Pocahontas by Robert E. Davis, Norma Coli, Charlemont Historical Commission and the Blue Heron Farm, The Mohawk Trail by William B. Browne, Elder Printing Co, the Greenfield Recorder Gazette.